

REMARKS

By this preliminary amendment, no claims have been added or cancelled. Claims 3, 8, 12, and 17 have been amended. Hence, Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. Amendments made herein are made to correct clerical errors that were inadvertently introduced to the claims and to more particularly identify the subject matter which the Applicants' regard as their invention. No new matter has been introduced.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Please charge any fee shortages or credit any overages Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

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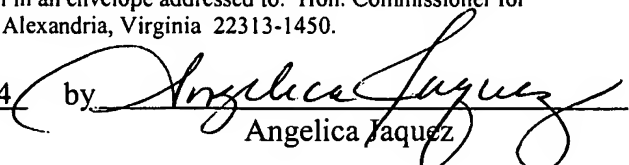
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Hon. Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

on April 13, 2004

by


Angelica Jaquez